

## ABSTRACT

Using a Privacy Agreement Framework to Improve Handling of  
Personally Identifiable Information

5 The invention entails identifying the parties involved in a  
process of handling personally identifiable information;  
identifying the data involved in said process; classifying the  
data; expressing each relationship between each pair of said  
10 parties in terms of a privacy agreement; and representing the  
parties, data, and privacy agreements graphically in one or more  
privacy agreement relationship diagrams. The invention has the  
advantage of identifying opportunities to reduce privacy-related  
risks, including identifying unnecessary exchanges of data, for  
15 possible elimination, and identifying opportunities to transform  
data into a less sensitive form. Privacy agreements are based on  
a limited set of privacy-related actions : access, disclose,  
release, notify, utilize, update, withdrawConsent, giveConsent,  
delete, anonymize, depersonalize, and repersonalize. One aspect  
20 of the present invention is a method for improving the handling  
of personally identifiable information. Another aspect of the  
present invention is a system for executing the method of the  
present invention. A third aspect of the present invention is as  
a set of instructions on a computer-usable medium, or resident  
25 in a computer system, for executing the method of the present  
invention.